

I'm the best to transform GJA —Gayheart Mensah

BY MALIK SULLEMANA

A PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), Mr Gayheart Mensah, has stated that he is the best person to transform the Association into a respectable organisation.

He has, thus, urged members to vote massively for him to make the GJA the once vibrant and resilient organisation it used to be.

Mr Mensah said this on Wednesday when he led a team to the New Times Corporation, publishers of the Ghanaian Times and The Spectator newspapers to solicit for votes.

The presidential candidate had a lively conversation with colleague journalists, reminding them that he is the most qualified candidate of the three candidates seeking to lead the GJA.

Mr Mensah who cut his teeth as a journalist with the Ghanaian Times before moving to Daily Graphic underscored the need to change the status quo, warning that a vote for the two other candi-

dates was a vote for retrogression and hopelessness.

Mr Mensah who has worked with Tullow Oil and currently consults for a number of organisations and individuals including the Speaker of Parliament, Mr Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, told staff of the corporation that his vision was anchored on Professionalism, Organisation, Empowerment, Welfare and Respect (POWER).

Touching on professionalism, the GJA presidential candidate said he would ensure the training of journalists in Ghana and abroad.

The promise to train journalists comes at a time when the conduct of lousy, dull, chaff and unprofessionals journalists is being called to question.

This is a major concern that Mr Mensah wants to address because the activities of these so-called

journalists is giving journalism a bad name.

Mr Mensah recounted the days of the old, the days when well-trained, well-cultured and intelligent journalists go about their job in a manner respected by all and said he would change the situation if he was elected as president of the GJA.

He said training journalists would not be difficult, recounting

a time he facilitated the training of 30 Ghanaian journalists in Singapore on oil and gas.

On organisation, Mr Mensah said the current structure of the GJA is a pale shadow of itself, unbefitting a noble organisation like the GJA.

Mr Mensah said that he considered the welfare of journalists as a top priority and would do everything to champion this cause.

He said he had contributed to the development of the GJA, noting that he got organisations to support the GJA annual awards.

When elected as president of the GJA, Mr Mensah who was once the Acting Editor of the defunct Evening News, also a newspaper produced by the New Times Corporation said that he would make the GJA an enviable organisation.



• Mr Gayheart Mensah (standing) addressing the Times journalists. Photo: Ebo Gorman

2 NGOs donate GH¢20,000 dual desks to Navrongo schools

BY ABIGAIL ANNOH

TWO non-governmental organisations (NGOs); Impact Next Gen and One Cedi for Change (IC4C) have donated 53 dual galvanised desks to the Gwenia Primary and Ayigatam Junior High Schools (JHS) in Navrongo in Kassena-Nankana Municipality of the Upper East Region.

The desks, valued at about GH¢20,000 was to help alleviate the plight of students who studied on bare classroom floors, hampering effective teaching and learning activities.

It fell under the IC4C “sit-a-child” project aimed to provide furniture to schools in deprived communities, particularly in the north.

At a brief handing over ceremony, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Impact Next Gen, Dr Theophilus Bafo-Yirenkyi, said the NGO was moved by the difficulty pupils faced in learning which prompted the need to come to their aid.

“We mobilised funds from our partners and in collaboration with IC4C, we decided to extend a helping hand to these two schools.

We hope in the near future, we are able to extend this gesture to other communities to help raise the level of education in this part of the country,” he said.

The CEO of IC4C, Helaria Wemeye Dalu, expressed worry over furniture deficit in many schools in the region.

“These are pupils who are competing with other advantaged schools and the least they can have is a comfortable learning environment to encourage them to realise

their aspirations,” she noted.

Ms Dalu appealed to benevolent members of the public to extend a helping hand to many deprived schools dotted across the country to improve educational standards in the country.

Mr Isaac Pabiawirane, Planning Officer at the Ghana Education

Service (GES) of the area, in a brief remark, thanked the organisations for the donation.

According to him, the desks had come at an opportune time when schools in the area were facing serious furniture deficit saying, “at the moment, we have about 15,000 deficit across the district.”

“Some schools on their own are trying to mobilise some of these desks on their own. The Assembly too is doing its best but we are inundated by the volume of furniture needed so this is a huge relieve to us and we know that gradually this problem will be solved,” he noted.

Mr Pabiawirane mentioned also, the gaps in infrastructure to accommodate pupils particularly those in pre-school and appealed for help in that direction.

Headmistress of Gwenia Primary, Mad. Constance Aseba, on behalf of both beneficiary schools expressed gratitude to the donors promising to ensure the desks were put into good use and well-maintained to benefit pupils and advance teaching and learning.



• Dr. Theophilus Bafo-Yirenkyi, (left) handing over the desks to the Planning Officer of GES Isaac Pabiawirane